

Onion River Co-op/City Market

Board of Directors Meeting

October 21, 2019

Board Attendance:

Faye Mack, Board Member, President
Eric Boehm, Board Member, Vice President
Jim Rudolph, Treasurer
Allison Searson, Board Member, Secretary
Joanna Grossman, Board Member
Caroline Keller, Board Member
Leah Soderquist, Board Member

Absent:

Julia Curry, Board Member

Also in attendance:

Michael Healy, Board Facilitator
John Tashiro, General Manager
Liz Jarvis, Membership Manager
Michael Clauss, Executive Chef
Mae Quilty, Outreach & Education Manager
Carolyn Zeller, Minutes Taker
Caitlin Waddick, Member

A quorum was established and the meeting started at 6:00 PM.

Preliminaries

Review Agenda

The Agenda was accepted as written with B4 being moved to next month's meeting.

Review Minutes

The September 23, 2019 minutes were accepted as written.

Review Action Items

The Action Items list was reviewed and accepted with 2 items removed.

Open Member Time

Caitlin Waddick reported concerns about chemicals and scents coming from the new Laundromat next door and offered this could be an opportunity to promote fragrance free supplies and workplaces.

Member Meeting Reflections

Faye heard positive feedback about the food at the member meeting. The presentations and dialogue felt stronger, and candidate speeches were calm and within time limits. Joanna also had good

feedback but did not observe many families with children and would like to look into that more. Allison thought the food up front may have caused a bottleneck, could we draw folks in further? Leah, Jim and Eric also had good feedback, with some reporting it was worth the Membership, so much fun, and childcare was utilized by some families. Accessibility of the South End store was brought up to Leah this year and last. There were some concerns about waste disposal and too many appetizer plates. Overall it was a rousing success and is always a great opportunity to build conversation and community with Members, and the presentation was inspirational. John appreciates the feedback, and with over 500 Members attending it's a testament to the Board, staff and the entire Co-op. Faye and John also discussed the ideal flow/schedule of the evening to ensure everyone stays until the end.

Co-op Café

Leah went to Co-op café last weekend in Greenfield MA, with a theme of "Everyone Can Shop at the Co-op." She presented a summary of key topics, such as how to best serve and represent the entire community through hiring practices, requesting feedback, consistency and transparency.

Board Monitoring

D3: Board Officers, Elections, & Roles

Jim presented D3 to the Board and reported the Board is in compliance.

D4: Board Members' Code of Conduct

Joanna presented D4 to the Board and reported the Board is in compliance.

The Board discussed Number 5: Board Members will prepare for and attend all meetings and trainings is a guideline, but is actually implied to be within reason. John suggested the language we should include is "within reason."

C1: Delegation to GM

Allison presented C1 to the Board and reported the Board is in compliance.

D7: Trusteeship & Relationship to Members

Caroline presented D7 to the Board and reported the Board is in compliance.

There may be a grammar mistake in Number 2, readdress next time more updates are made.

Seedling Grant Approval

John and Mae presented the Member Grants Committee's decisions for the FY19 Seedling Grants with the goal of Strengthening Local Food Systems and discussed the reasoning for each decision. The Board approved the 2019 Member Grants.

GM Reporting

Monthly GM Update

John presented his report to the Board. Highlights included but were not limited to surpassing \$1 million in donations through Rally for Change since the program's launch in 2014, as well as IT and Downtown store infrastructure improvements.

The Board shared observations and asked clarifying questions, acknowledging the staff wellness and engagement opportunities.

B: Global Executive Constraint

John presented the B report to the Board.

The Board accepted the report as demonstrating compliance with the policy.

Open Board Time

The Board shared local updates and developments. Leah, Allison and Faye tabled to help Members vote for the Board, and had great conversations and opportunities to connect with the public, and that it is so important to participate in tabling to engage Members and customers.

Future Planning

Open Member Time Response

Faye responded to the concern of fragrances coming from the neighboring laundromat as an opportunity to open a dialogue, and will collaborate with John to come up with proposals.

Board Retreat Agenda Review

Faye presented the drafted retreat agenda to the Board.

Review Board Calendar

The Board reviewed the calendar.

Wrap Up

This meeting had a lot of chances for gratification for staff and it was valuable to discuss Seedling Grants. Smaller meetings are great, and more opportunities to get up and move would be great.

The Board presented Liz with gratitude and gifts, and best wishes for her next adventure!

Executive Session

The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:00 PM for a final discussion of GM Evaluation as well as to discuss union contract ratification and the Seven Days article.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:40 PM.

Adjourn

The Board adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Action Items

Eric & Faye will put together an overview of the decision process regarding the open fourth board member seat and will share that with Patrick Brown. (Will be meeting next month.)

John will provide a follow-up to the “Four Seasons” discussion by the end of December 2019.

John will look into the NCG survey and report that was shared at the Co-op Café for the November Board meeting.